

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00944 270119Z
ACTION NEA-10

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UNCLAS TEHRAN 0944

USDOC FOR CAGNE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP IR
SUBJ: RENOVATION BAN ON FACTORIES MAY BE LIFTED

1. AN IMPORTANT BOOST IN DEMAND FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF MACHINERY WILL RESULT FROM A PROPOSED CHANGE IN CURRENT IRANIAN POLICY BANNING THE EXPANSION OR RENOVATION OF EXISTING INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS WITHIN 120 KILOMETERS OF TEHRAN AND OTHER MAJOR CITIES. THIS 10-YEAR OLD PROHIBITION HAS BEEN INTERPRETED TO INCLUDE THE REPLACEMENT OF AN OUTMODED, INEFFICIENT, OR WORN-OUT MACHINE WITH ONE OF GREATER CAPACITY.

2. REPORTEDLY MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES AND MINES NOW IS CONSIDERING THE NEED FOR RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION OF SEVERAL THOUSAND FACOTIRES OF ALL SIZES IN ORDER TO STEP UP THE PRODUCTION OF MANY ESSENTIAL CONSUMER PRODUCTS INCLUDING FOODSTUFFS. REPORTEDLY AMONG THE PRECONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL WILL BE THE INSTALLATION OF ANTI-POLLUTION EQUIPMENT IN EACH UNIT AND THE USE OF SEMI-OR-FULLY AUTOMATIC EQUIPMENT. THE LATTER STEP WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY TO SLOW OR END THE EMIGRATION OF RURAL INHABITANTS TO LARGE CITIES SUCH AS TEHRAN.

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3. COMMENT. THE NEWSPAPER REPORT WHICH APPEARED ON JANUARY 23 HAS BEEN HAPPILY RECEIVED BY LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND APPEARS TO BE GENERALLY ACCURATE. IT SHOULD OPEN NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR THE SALE OF U.S. EQUIPMENT. ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE PLAN UNDER CONSIDERATION HAVE NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT

FACTORY OWNERS NOW CAN SUBMIT THEIR REQUESTS FOR
MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION TO THE MINISTRY. IT IS
PROBABLE THAT EXPANSION OF EXISTING
INDUSTRIES INTO COMPLETELY NEW LINES WILL CONTINUE TO BE
RESTRICTED IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO REDUCE
POLLUTION AND TRAFFIC, AND THE GROWING DEMAND FOR
WATER, POWER, HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES.
SULLIVAN

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